

Claims

1. A method of providing a user of a home network with use of a visited fixed network, the method comprising registering the user with the visited fixed network, including supplying a visitor node which is located in the visited fixed network with the identity of a user-selected fixed termination and with a first identification number, the first identification number identifying the user and a home node which is located in the home network, and registering the visitor node as a proxy with the home node so as to allow routing by the home node of a call intended for the user to the user-selected fixed termination.
- 10 2. A method of configuring a home network to provide a user of the home network, who is assigned a user number, use of a visited fixed network, the method comprising receiving the identity of a visitor node located in the visited fixed network, storing and associating the identity of the visitor node with the user number and receiving billing data from the visitor node for charging the user.
- 15 3. A method of configuring a visitor node to provide a user of a home network with use of a visited fixed network in which the visited node is located, the method comprising receiving an identification number for identifying the user and identifying a home node which is located in the home network, requesting and receiving confirmation of registration with the home node and sending to the home node billing data arising from the user's use
- 20 of the visited fixed network.
4. A method according to claim 1 or 3 wherein the visitor node comprises a visitor switching means and a visitor location database.
5. A method according to either claim 1, 2, 3, or 4 wherein the user-selected fixed termination is assigned a temporary routing number.
- 25 6. A method according to any preceding claim further providing a further user of the home network with use of the visited fixed network, wherein a call intended for the further user is routed to the user-selected fixed termination.

5 7. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the visited fixed network is a public switched telephone network and including supplying a visitor node with the identity of a user-selected fixed termination comprising providing the telephone number of a terminal attached to the visited fixed network.

8. A method according to any preceding claim further comprising supplying the user with a second identification number for enabling the user to use the visited fixed network and for enabling the visitor node to record the use of the visited fixed network by the user.

10 9. A method according to claim 8 wherein in order to enable the user to use the visited fixed network the user dials the second identification number and a destination terminal number for making a call to the destination terminal.

10. A method according to either claim 8 or 9 wherein the recorded use of the visited fixed network is supplied to the home node for the purposes of billing.

11. Apparatus for providing a user of a home network with use of a visited fixed network, the apparatus comprising the visited fixed network and a home network, a user-selected fixed termination connected to the visited fixed network; means for registering the user with the visited fixed network, a visitor node located in the visited fixed network, means for supplying the visitor node with the identity of the user-selected fixed termination and a first identification number for identifying the user; a home node located in the home network, and means for registering the visitor node as a proxy with the home node so as to allow routing by the home node of a call intended for the user to the user-selected fixed termination.

12. A telephone network configurable as a home network to provide a user of the home network, who is assigned a user number, use of a visited fixed network, the network comprising means for receiving, from a visitor node located in another network, its identity; means for storing and associating the identity of the visitor node with the user number; and means for receiving billing data from the visitor node for charging the user.

13. A node in a fixed telephone network configurable as a visited node to provide a user of another, home, network use of the network in which the visited node is located, the node comprising means for receiving an identification number for identifying the user and
5 a home node located in the home network, means for requesting and receiving confirmation of registration with the home node and means for sending to the home node billing data arising from the user's use of the visited fixed network.

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14. Apparatus according to claim 11 or 13 wherein the visitor node comprises a visitor switching means and a visitor location database.
- 10 15. Apparatus according to any of claims 11, 13 or 14 wherein the visited fixed network is a public switched telephone network and includes means for supplying the visitor node with the identity of a user-selected fixed termination by providing the telephone number of a terminal attached to the visited fixed network.
- 15 16. Apparatus according to claim 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 comprising means for assigning the user-selected fixed termination is assigned a temporary routing number.
17. Apparatus according to any of claims 11 to 16 having means for providing a further user of the home network with use of the visited fixed network, comprising means for allowing calls intended for the further user is routed to the user-selected fixed termination.
- 20 18. Apparatus according to any of claims 11 to 17 further comprising means for supplying the user with a second identification number for enabling the user to use the visited fixed network, and means for enabling the visitor node to record the use of the visited fixed network by the user.
- 25 19. Apparatus according to claim 18 comprising means to enable a user to use the visited fixed network, comprising means for receiving dialled data indicative of the second identification number and the destination terminal number.

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20. Apparatus according to either claim 18 or 19 comprising means for transmitting recorded use of the visited fixed network to the home node from the visited node for the purposes of billing.

21. A method substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 1 to 8 of the accompanying drawings

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